

Smith Brightens Kiddies' Christmas

In the hustle and bustle of Christmas shopping, the average person often forgets about many children to whom Christmas is only another day, without Christmas trees, gifts, or even Santa Claus.

Not so with Robert L. Smith, 3507 W. 227th Pl., who has for several years been instrumental in throwing one of the biggest Christmas parties in

the world for "children who would not otherwise have a Christmas."

Huge Parties Held

Although Smith has coordinated Christmas parties in the past five years for more than 150,000 children, he was unable to do so this year. Instead, he was instrumental in obtaining more than 750 neatly packaged toys to the Toys

for Tots campaign in the Torrance area.

Smith and his wife urged all residents to give some thought to the less fortunate youngsters who find that, by the time he gets to them, Santa Claus always has an empty bag. He strongly urged local residents to contribute to the Toys for Tots drive.

A restaurant manager,

Smith and a group of associates decided in 1951 to start a gigantic party each year for all underprivileged children in the Los Angeles area. The name of the group was later changed to the "Committee to Provide a Christmas for Those Children Who Would Not Otherwise Have One."

Smith and his associates went to leading firms and toy manufacturers throughout the area, asking for donations toward the party. The response was overwhelming. Although the group was told that such a feat could never be accompanied, it was done and on Christmas, 1951, a party for 22,000 children from all parts of Los Angeles County was held in East Los Angeles.

Volunteers Aid

Volunteers from many sources—local Armed Forces units, sheriff's deputies, police, firms, clubs, colleges, and interested people—joined to supervise the party, transport the children, wrap the gifts, provide the show, and prepare and clean up the auditorium. Civic leaders were amazed that a project on such a scale was carried out.

The party was so successful that it was repeated in 1952, 1953, 1954, and 1955. This year, however, the group was unable to make necessary arrangements, but Smith said that the parties will be resumed next year.

Smith's contributions to the Toys for Tots campaign this year came as the result of donations of toys from large firms, even though no party was held. Smith also has taken many of the toys—ranging from basketballs to dolls—to local youth groups.

Toys Accepted

He attributed the success of the Christmas parties to the fact that the organization took no money and gladly accepted seconds and rejects in toys for the children. He said the idea began because he and some of his friends were appalled at the way some Christmas parties for underprivileged youngsters were managed.

"The children were treated like little animals," he said. Christmas parties managed by Smith included wholesome

entertainment and gifts for each child. Some of the real significance of Christmas was a part of each party, Smith said.

Coordinating such a huge endeavor was no easy job, but it was worth it, Smith feels. "I had nightmares after the parties," he said.

Toys Distributed

One slip-up in the plans occurred last year, when Smith had stored many of the toys for the party in his garage. Smith's two youngsters and some neighborhood children discovered the baubles.

"The first thing I knew, there were toys all over the neighborhood," Smith declared.

An active worker with children, Smith coaches the football team at Nativity School, where his children attend school.

Invents Gadgets

He also is an inventor and has had some success with his ideas—including a cuff link holder, picnic butler, musical baby bottle, new type of baby bottle nipple, raised copper paintings, and many other things.

When he sees something which he feels could stand improvement, he puts his mind to work on it and frequently comes up with a better solution.

His favorite season, however, is Christmas.



(Herald Photo)

TOYS FOR TOTS . . . Looking on as their children, Kathy Jean and Ronnie Lee, look at some of the toys collected for less fortunate children are Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Smith, 3507 W. 227th Pl. The toys were donated by various firms for distribution at the huge Christmas parties which Smith has coordinated. This year, the Smiths obtained more than 750 toys for the "Toys for Tots" campaign, since no giant party was held.

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MAPLE DEPT.

ITEM	Reg.	Sale
Maple Milk Stools	3.99	1.99
Maple Ash Tray Stands	7.95	6.50
Maple Ash Tray Stands	14.95	10.99
Telephone Stand & Magazine Tray	21.95	16.50
Magazine Racks	21.95	16.50
Triangle Corner Rack (3 Shelves)	29.95	26.50
One Group Lamps		1/2 OFF
Country Scene Pictures (2'x3 1/2')	9.95	6.95
4-Pc. Bedroom Group (Provincial-Solid Cherry)	469.95	389.95
Solid Cherry Prov. 4-Drawer Desk	89.95	59.95
Solid Maple Hutch	159.50	129.50
Solid Distressed Maple Living Room Set (green tweed)	359.50	229.00

MODERN DEPT.

ITEM	Reg.	Sale
2 End Tables (Blonde) each—	34.95	19.95
Lamps in Modern Cork each—	38.95	19.95
Hand Carved Wooden Base Lamps	32.95	17.95
Hand Carved Wooden Base Lamps	29.95	16.95
Wrought Iron Step Corner Table (Neva Mar)	49.95	33.95
Coffee Table (Blonde)	24.95	13.95
Modern Styled Floor Lamp	34.95	16.95
2-Pc. Tweed Sofa and Chair	269.95	179.95
2-Pc. Green & Gold Sofa and Chair	299.95	149.95
Wrought Iron Garden Relaxizer	29.95	19.95
One—Hassock (Red Plastic)	12.98	MAKE OFFER
One—Floor Lamp	29.95	18.95
One—Floor Lamp	24.95	16.95
One—Lamp Table (Blond Neva Mar)	24.95	17.95
Three—Modern Pictures	10.95	6.95
Two—Wall Clocks (Exquisite fashion) each—	29.95	19.95
Two—Occasional Chairs	24.95	1/2 OFF
Modern TV Lamps		
Modern Air-Float Rocker	88.95	59.95
Modern Five-Drawer Chest	24.95	14.95
Assorted Plastic Covered Headboards	24.95	13.95

TELEVISION

ITEM	Reg.	Sale
17" Repossessed Raytheon (Sold New at)	169.95	59.50
21" Repossessed Admiral (Sold New at)	199.95	89.50
21" Repossessed G.E. (Sold New at)	199.95	89.50
21" Hoffman TV—Sold for \$179.95		
Just Pick Up the Payments of Only \$9 Month		
21" Hoffman Mahogany Console	299.95	199.95
21" Hoffman Walnut Table Model	299.95	229.95
21" Hoffman Console	349.95	239.95
21" Olympic Combination	400.00	289.95
21" Packard-Bell Blonde Lo-Boy	279.95	239.95

(Limited Quantity on Most Items)

APPLIANCES

ITEM	Reg.	Sale
Hotpoint Apt. Size Refrigerator	229.95	189.95
Hotpoint 11 Cu. Ft. Refrigerator	269.95	199.50
Bendix Automatic Washer	149.95	99.50
Hotpoint Automatic Washer	199.95	159.95

Packard-Bell Radios—Only \$12.95

Record Player and Carrying Case

Reg. \$36.95—Now \$32.95

USED DEPT.

Solid Mahogany Office Desk	\$29.95
Maple Finish Hutch	\$29.95
2 Matching End Tables (Like New)	\$9.95 ea.
6 Occasional Chairs (Your Choice)	\$9.95 ea.
6-Pc. Dinette Table, Chairs and Buffet	\$49.50
5-Pc. Wrought Iron Dinette Set (Repossessed—Sold Now for \$179.50)	\$49.50
Round Eureka Vacuum Cleaner	\$19.95
Portable Sewing Machine (As Is)	\$19.95

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